



U. S. S. CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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DDG2/RER:cn
5750
Ser: 017
4 MAR 1969

From: Commanding Officer, USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington
Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20390
Via: Commander Destroyer Division SIX TWO

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1(Command History); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Command History, Calendar Year 1968
USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

J. L. Jones
J. L. JONES

Copy to:
COMCRUDESANT (w/o Part III of enclosure (1))
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USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2)

INDEX OF 1968 CALENDAR YEAR COMMAND HISTORY

PART I CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

PART II BASIC NARRATIVE

PART III DOCUMENTARY ANNEXES

A. PHOTOGRAPHS

B. OPERATION REPORTS

C. PORT VISIT REPORTS

D. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

E. LIST OF OFFICERS

F. CAPTAIN'S PHOTOGRAPH AND
BIOGRAPHY

G. MISCELLANEOUS

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PART I

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF 1968

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 JAN - 2 JAN | INPORT CANNES, FRANCE |
| 2 JAN - 8 JAN | PHIBLEX |
| 9 JAN - 11 JAN | SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS |
| 12 JAN - 13 JAN | INPORT ROTA, SPAIN |
| 14 JAN - 18 JAN | VISIT MARIN, SPAIN |
| 19 JAN - 20 JAN | TURNOVER, ROTA, SPAIN |
| 21 JAN | OUTCHOP SIXTH FLEET |
| 22 JAN | INPORT PORTA DEL GADA, AZORES |
| 23 JAN - 28 JAN | ENROUTE CHARLESTON |
| 29 JAN | ARRIVAL CHARLESTON |
| 30 JAN - 6 MAR | INPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON |
| 7 MAR - 21 MAR | EXERCISE RUGBY MATCH OPERATIONS |
| 22 MAR - 23 MAR | VISIT ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS |
| 24 MAR - 28 MAR | EXERCISE RUGBY MATCH OPERATIONS |
| 29 MAR - 10 APR | INPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON |
| 10 APR | CHANGE OF COMMAND |
| 11 APR - 12 APR | ENROUTE TO CARIBBEAN |
| 13 APR - 19 APR | PLANE GUARD FOR USS AMERICA (CVA-66) |
| 20 APR - 28 APR | INPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON |
| 29 APR - 3 MAY | MISSILEX WITH CDD 62 AT ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS RANGE |
| 4 MAY - 6 MAY | ENROUTE TO CHARLESTON |
| 7 MAY - 9 MAY | INPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON |
| 10 MAY - 19 MAY | JACKSONVILLE SHIPYARD |
| 20 MAY - 27 MAY | INPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON |
| 28 MAY - 30 MAY | SEARCH FOR THE SCORPION (SSN-589) |

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31 MAY - 9 JUN
10 JUN - 22 JUN
23 JUN - 30 JUN
1 JUL - 5 JUL
6 JUL - 10 JUL
11 JUL - 12 JUL
13 JUL - 16 JUL
17 JUL - 16 AUG
17 AUG - 23 AUG
24 AUG - 25 AUG
26 AUG - 29 AUG
30 AUG - 5 SEP
6 SEP
7 SEP - 9 SEP
10 SEP - 14 SEP
15 SEP - 16 SEP
17 SEP - 24 SEP
25 SEP - 30 SEP
1 OCT - 2 OCT
3 OCT - 5 OCT
6 OCT - 8 OCT
8 OCT
9 OCT - 14 OCT
15 OCT - 24 OCT
25 OCT - 30 OCT

IMPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON
ENROUTE TO NORTHERN EUROPE
VISIT KIEL, GERMANY
VISIT SANDEFJORD, NORWAY
ENROUTE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN
TURNOVER IN ROTA, SPAIN
ENROUTE TO NAPLES, ITALY
VISIT NAPLES, ITALY
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
ANCHORED SOUDHA BAY, CRETE
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
VISIT ATHENS, GREECE
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
ANCHORED SOUDHA BAY, CRETE
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
ANCHORED ST. PAUL'S BAY
VISIT VALETTA, MALTA
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
ANCHORED ARGOSTOLI BAY, GREECE, FOR FLEET
COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
ANCHORED ARGOSTOLI BAY, GREECE
PRESENTATION OF BATTLE EFFICIENCY "E" BY
COMDESDIV SIX TWO, COMMODORE W. F. REGAN
VISIT TARANTO, ITALY
SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS
PHIBLEX

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| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 31 OCT - 1 NOV | ASW EXERCISE (NORTH OF SICILY) |
| 2 NOV - 3 NOV | ENROUTE TO VOLOS, GREECE |
| 4 NOV - 10 NOV | VISIT VOLOS, GREECE |
| 11 NOV - 14 NOV | ENROUTE TO ROTA, SPAIN |
| 15 NOV | TURNOVER, ROTA, SPAIN. OUTCHOP SIXTH FLEET |
| 16 NOV - 24 NOV | ENROUTE TO CHARLESTON |
| 25 NOV - 31 DEC | IMPORT HOMEPORT, CHARLESTON |

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PART II
BASIC NARRATIVE

ADAMS saw New Year's Day, 1968 come and go in Cannes, France. It was a good liberty port for such an international holiday, and everyone, without exception, joined in the festivities.

On 2 January 1968, ADAMS was underway again for SIXTH FLEET operations. The ship participated in PHIBLEX 10-68 for six days before being detached to end her deployment. The weather during the amphibious exercises was terrible. It was so bad that the "enemy" carrier, the USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38), kept her planes tied down on deck.

After a brief fueling stop in Rota, Spain, on 12 January 1968, ADAMS proceeded to Marin, Spain for a visit to the Spanish Naval Academy. The Spanish Midshipmen had opportunities to see most of the ship, including the missile system and engineering spaces. A special dinner was given by the Spanish Navy for 14 of the ship's officers on 18 January. ADAMS departed from Marin on 19 January with her officers and crew very impressed with the warmth and friendliness shown by the Spanish people.

With completion of turnover on 19 January in Rota, Spain with the USS CHARLES H. ROAN (DD-853), all that stood between leave, rest, and family reunions was a short fueling stop in Ponta Del Gada, Azores, on the 22nd of January.

The 29th of January was a big day. Many friends, wives, children, and relatives were waiting on the pier as the ADAMS moored. Soon after "liberty call" the pier was deserted, and ADAMSMEN commenced enjoying a well deserved period of rest and relaxation.

ADAMS found herself underway again on 7 March to participate in exercise RUGBY MATCH, a true test of the ship's operational readiness. Heavy emphasis was placed on ASW and AAW, with the crew at condition III stations most of the time. During this time, anti-SSM doctrines were formulated and tested. During the period 20 - 21 March, ADAMS fired four missiles at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range.

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, provided ADAMS with two days of "peace". VADM DUNCAN, Commander SECOND Fleet, inspected the crew during this period and was very much impressed by the ship's smartness.

The morning of 24 March saw the ADAMS underway again for the final phases of RUGBY MATCH. Barely clear of St. Thomas harbor, the signal bridge lookouts spotted a man in the water. ADAMS stopped and rescued Mr. Roman T. WERNIKOWSKI, a civilian pilot whose plane had crashed the night before. This was the second rescue of a downed aviator by the ADAMS in less than two years.

ADAMS was again in Charleston between 29 March and 10 April. During this short period a Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection was held, and on 10 April the ship changed skippers. CDR J. L. JONES, USN, relieved Captain R. F. HOFFMANN, USN, on a dreary, rainy day which was hardly suited for a change of command ceremony.

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ADAMS sailed for the Caribbean the next day with a new Captain. During this seven day operating period ADAMS fired two TARTAR missiles at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range, provided destroyer services to USS AMERICA (CVA-66) and participated in an underway demonstration for the Secretary of the Navy. The ship arrived back in Charleston on 19 April.

After nine days in homeport, ADAMS was once again underway on the 29th of April for another missile exercise. Four missiles were fired in a "Free-Play" environment, with great success. During this shoot, ADAMS earned acclaim as the second DDG in history to hit the target ship USS KILLEN with a TARTAR missile. Naval gunfire support at Culebra was also scheduled, which the ship completed with excellent to outstanding scores.

The ship arrived in Charleston on 6 May to conduct an ammunition off-load prior to going to a Jacksonville, Florida shipyard for dry-docking. ADAMS was in drydock from 10 May until 19 May during which time the entire hull and sonar dome were inspected, sand blasted, and painted.

A week was spent in Charleston before the ship got underway again. During this time Commander Destroyer Division SIX TWO conducted a personnel and messing and berthing inspection on 25 May. The Administration and Materiel Inspection commenced on 27 May.

Despite the busy workschedule, ADAMS was ordered to get underway very early on the morning of 28 May to participate in the search for SCORPION (SSN-589). Due to her forthcoming deployment to the Mediterranean on 10 June, ADAMS was detached from the task group the 30th of May, arriving in Charleston the 31st.

The time prior to departure on 10 June consisted of hard work, getting the ship ready for the six-month deployment.

On 23 June 1968, ADAMS arrived in Kiel, Germany after transiting the Atlantic Ocean, and the Kiel Canal. The ship was one of three American DDG's invited to "KIELER WOCHE", a week of sailing competition, parties, and protocol. It was a very enjoyable, though tiring week. The people of Kiel, and the German Navy went out of their way to make the stay an enjoyable one. 30 June found ADAMS leaving behind many new friends.

The period 1 July through 5 July was spent in Sandefjord, Norway. Sandefjord is an old whaling town, not far from Oslo, located in a very idyllic setting. The Mayor of Sandefjord held a reception for 25 ship's officers and men to help celebrate the 4th of July. ADAMS, in return, held a party on the mess decks later in the day, for 30 Norwegian orphans. It was a very quiet and successful visit.

On arrival in Rota, Spain 11 July, ADAMS relieved USS BAILEY (DDR-713), and thus became a part of the SIXTH FLEET once more.

Naples, Italy, became the first Mediterranean port visited on 17 July. Naples was to be a working port, which included a tender availability period with the USS SHENANDOAH (AD-26). At 0030, 29 July, while lighting off a boiler prior to getting underway, a steam line ruptured, killing BT3 Terence MANGANELLO. Repairs, and replacement of piping on all four boilers of the engineering plant extended the ship's stay until 16 August.

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The 17th of August through the 29th of August was taken up by operations with the SIXTH FLEET. ADAMS anchored in Soudha Bay, Crete, for two days during this period to conduct ship maintenance.

Athens, Greece, was the next port of call. ADAMS was there for part of the local wine festival, much to the delight of the crew who made full use of the opportunities presented. The Acropolis was also a favorite with the crew, who jammed every tour bus going in that direction.

6 September through 16 September was again spent on underway operations, with training anchorages in Soudha Bay, Crete, and in St. Paul's Bay, Malta.

The city of Valetta, Malta, was the next liberty port from 17 September through 24 September. 20 September was Malta's independence day, celebrated annually by a parade and a military review by the island's governor. The Commanding Officer and a few selected wardroom officers were invited to attend.

Commander Destroyer Division SIX TWO gave ADAMS a surprise personnel and messing and berthing inspection on 24 September. The crew turned out early in the morning to get the ship ready, and the ship passed with flying colors.

SIXTH FLEET operations took up the time from 25 September through 8 October. The ship anchored twice in Argostoli Bay, Greece, once for a Fleet Commander's Conference, and the second time for training. It was during the second Argostoli anchorage that COMDESDIV SIX TWO, Commodore W. F. REGAN, presented the ship with the COMCRUDESANT BATTLE EFFICIENCY "E", for fiscal year 1968 culminating a hard year's work.

ADAMS visited Taranto, Italy from 9 October to 15 October. Limited hotels, shopping and entertainment facilities made Taranto an unpopular liberty port.

A long at-sea period from 15 October to 4 November followed the visit to Taranto. ADAMS participated in routine SIXTH FLEET operations which included an Amphibious and ASW exercise.

The northern coast of Greece, and the town of Volos was the last stop in the Mediterranean for ADAMS on 4 November. Located in a very picturesque setting, Volos is surrounded by hills on three sides and by water on the fourth side. It was also a good place to pick up a few last souvenirs. ADAMS gave a party for 30 Greek orphans on 8 November, and the toys, cookies, and ice cream that were handed out disappeared like magic, after the orphans' first shyness had worn off.

Rota, Spain, and turnover with the USS RICHARD E. BYRD (DDG-23) awaited the ADAMS next on 15 November. After that it was homeward bound with a brief stop at Ponta Del Gada, Azores to refuel.

ADAMS arrived home in Charleston the morning of the 25th of November. It was a time for rest, relaxation, and a time to be with loved ones for the holidays; all well-deserved after six months away from home.

On 21 December, ADAMS gave her annual Christmas party for the children of the Charles Webb Home for Crippled Children. The party was a huge success and an excellent way to round out the old year, and to bring in the new.

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